

# CEA/CISP CORNERSTONE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2008

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to our inaugural issue of CEA's/CISP's new electronic newsletter, the [CEA/CISP Cornerstone](#). By utilizing an electronic delivery system we hope to provide you with important information in a more timely and cost-efficient manner, while at the same time helping reduce costs and eliminating unnecessary paper clutter in your office.

In this issue there is information on two very special workshops for our members on March 5 at the Holiday Inn Independence covering building information modeling (BIM) and an overview the Pension Protection Act of 2006 which affects many

union pension funds and your bottom line. Both of these programs offer very important information on how to grow and protect your business. I strongly encourage you to attend these events which are free to CEA members.

We hope you find this new format easy to use and that it will serve as a handy reference tool. Please feel free to forward this issue to your fellow employees, or if you'd like, contact Mark Laskey ([mlaskey@ceacisp.org](mailto:mlaskey@ceacisp.org)) and he'll be happy to add others from your company to our distribution list. Rest assured this information will



CEA President  
John Arsenia  
Acme Arsenia Company, Inc.

be kept confidential and we will not share your email address with anyone.

I look forward to seeing you on March 5 at the Holiday Inn Independence.

## GOT NEWS?

If you have news that you'd like to share with other members of CEA, please send us your stories, articles or pictures. We would be pleased to help you publicize your announcements, promotions, special events, etc.

Please send your submissions to Mark Laskey at [mlaskey@ceacisp.org](mailto:mlaskey@ceacisp.org) or by fax to (216) 398-9801.

Thanks, and we look forward to hearing from you!



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- There will be a CEA-PAC fund raiser for Rep. Tom Patton on Marcy 6 at Massimo da Milano.
- There will be two very special workshops for CEA members and CISP contributors on March 5 at the Holliday Inn Independence.
- CEA 2nd Vice President, Charles Izzo, of Infinity Construction Co., Inc., has been named president of AGC of Ohio.

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Help support your industry by attending the fund raiser for Rep. Tom Patton.

REP. PATTON  
WAS  
INSTRUMENTAL  
IN HELPING RE-  
ESTABLISH  
PREVAILING  
WAGE IN  
SCHOOL WORK

## JOIN US AT MASSIMO DA MILANO

On March 6 the Construction Employers PAC Fund is hosting a fund raising reception for Rep. Tom Patton (R), Strongsville, and we are encouraging all CEA members to attend. Rep. Patton has been a friend and champion of the union construction industry in northeast Ohio for many years and he has been a strong Cornerstone of preserving prevailing wage. He was also an instrumental participant in obtaining prevailing wage with the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission for school construction.

This reception is a good opportunity to discuss issues important to the construction industry with one of the most influential lawmakers in the Ohio General Assembly. Pending laws are being imposed that will affect the business of every CEA and Affiliated Member and it is im-

perative that we make our positions known and understood. Of particular importance are CEA's efforts to reform Workers Compensation with the objective to make it more affordable for union construction employers while maintaining good medical and rehabilitative care to get injured workers back to work as soon as possible.

Please make every effort to attend this reception that will take place on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at Massimo da Milano (West 25<sup>th</sup> at Detroit) from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Plan to join us to keep our friend in office. Download a reservation form here or call Toni Walker at (216) 398-9860 for additional information.



Rep. Thomas Patton

## SMACNA ELECTS NEW EVP

The Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association's (SMACNA) ([www.smacna.org](http://www.smacna.org)) EVP Search Committee has engaged Vince Sandusky as the next SMACNA Executive Vice President.

Mr. Sandusky is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the

Finishing Contractors Association. He previously held the following positions: President of the American Public Communications Council, and Executive Vice President of the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America.

He also held the following positions with SMACNA

from 1980-1987: Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs, Assistant Director of Labor Relations, Assistant to the EVP, and Director of Member Services and Operations.

Mr. Sandusky will begin his service with SMACNA on April 1.



Vince Sandusky,  
SMACNA's new  
EVP

## YOUNG EXECUTIVES FORUM

Last March CEA instituted its newest committee – the Young Executives Forum. The Forum was conceived by CEA's Mark Laskey and Wayne Creasap as a platform to introduce young professionals to CEA and to help facilitate discussions on issues affecting the union construction industry.

Meetings are held at CEA on the last Wednesday of odd

numbered months beginning at noon and lunch is provided. The schedule for the remainder of 2008 is: March 26; May 28; July 30; September 24; and November 26.

Mark Panzica, of Panzica Construction Company ([www.panzica.com](http://www.panzica.com)), serves as chairman of the YEF and Randolph Spencer, of Dunlop & Johnston, Inc. ([www.dunlopandjohnston.com](http://www.dunlopandjohnston.com)), is vice chairman. Topics

discussed so far, include: collective bargaining; legislation and contract interpretation. Future topics scheduled include a mock grievance hearing and a mock OSHA informal.

If you, or if you have an employee that you'd like us to add to our mailing list, please contact Mark Laskey at CEA in care of (216) 398-9860 or at [mlaskey@ceacisp.org](mailto:mlaskey@ceacisp.org).



Young executives join us for our next meeting at noon at CEA on March 26.

## DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

On Wednesday, March 5, CEA will sponsor two very special workshops. at the Holiday Inn Independence.

**Introduction to BIM.** Building Information Modeling (BIM) is an innovative method to seamlessly bridge communication within the architecture, engineering and construction industries. With BIM, architects and engineers efficiently generate and exchange information, create digital representations of all stages of the building process, and simulate real-world performance - streamlining workflow, increasing productivity and improving quality. Mr. Ken Stow with Autodesk will be the presenter.

**Pension Protection Act of 2006** is the most significant pension legislation passed for

multiemployer plans in the last 30 years. Provisions for change will generally be effective in 2008. Financially troubled plans will require tougher funding requirements, mandated benefit restrictions and possible employer contribution surcharges. Trustees will need to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Mr. Randy DeFrehn, Executive Director for the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans, will provide the details of the PPA that will affect most signatory employers.

The day will begin with a breakfast buffet at 8:00 AM, followed by Mr. Stow's presentation at 8:30 AM. Mr. DeFrehn's remarks will begin at 10:15 AM and lunch will be served at 11:30 AM.

All CEA Members are welcome to attend one or both presentations at **NO** cost. CISP Contributors will be invited at a cost of \$95.00 per person. To RSVP, please contact Toni Walker at (216) 398-9860 or via email at ([twalker@ceacisp.org](mailto:twalker@ceacisp.org)) or download a registration form [here](#).

THE PENSION  
PROTECTION  
ACT HAS A  
DIRECT EFFECT  
ON SIGNATORY  
CONTRACTORS



Learn how BIM is changing the way we work.



To view the revised document visit [www.ceacisp.org](http://www.ceacisp.org) and follow the link on our home page.

## 19-POINT AGREEMENT REVISED TO 16-POINTS

The 19-Point Jurisdictional Agreement between the Carpenters Regional Council Appendix "D" and the Building Laborers Local #310 originally negotiated on February 26, 1971 has been revised. After several recent meetings between representatives of the Carpenters, the Laborers, CEA, the Carpenter Contractors Association and the AGC of Ohio, Cleveland Division, all parties have

agreed to a new revision that is now a 16-Point Agreement. This new agreement applies to commercial work only in Cuyahoga and Geauga Counties.

Both Labor and Management representatives believe this revised agreement will continue to eliminate jurisdictional disputes and provide a better understanding between

these organizations.

To view and download a copy of the newly revised document please visit CEA's website at [www.ceacisp.org](http://www.ceacisp.org). A link to document is provided on both the "home page" and the "announcements" page.

## GREAT LAKES NAMES NEW OFFICERS

The Great Lakes Construction Co. ([www.tglcc.com](http://www.tglcc.com)) Board of Directors has elected two new company officers effective January 1, 2008. Kurt Knapp will be Vice President – Heavy Industrial and Mark Grdina will be Vice President – Estimating. These two individuals will assume their new positions upon the retirement of our Senior Vice President, Joe Allen, at the end of this year.

Kurt Knapp began his career with Great Lakes Construction as a Project Engineer in 1986 after graduating from The University of Akron with a Degree in Civil Engineering. Kurt has also served as a Project Superintendent and the company's Director of Business Development.



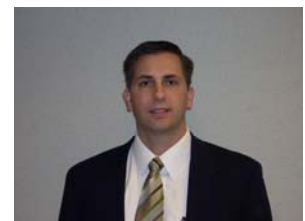
Kurt Knapp

Kurt will be responsible for the development, procurement and project management of all private, industrial and treatment plant work at Great Lakes Construction. Great Lakes will continue its diversification efforts while utilizing its core resources. Kurt will lead this charge.

Mark Grdina started with Great Lakes Construction as an Estimator in 2000 after previously serving 11 years with another Northeast Ohio heavy highway contractor.

Mark became the company's Chief Estimator in 2002. Mark is also a graduate of the University of Akron's Civil Engineering Program

Mark will be responsible for the entire Estimating Department, submittal of all Great Lakes' bids and the project cost-to-complete process.



Mark Grdina

We congratulate both of these gentlemen on their accomplishments and wish them all the best in their new positions at Great Lakes Construction Co.

## EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

CEA recently began an intensive media campaign on Channels 19 and 43 to help publicize the excellent career opportunities provided by union apprenticeship programs. A separate commercial deals specifically with iron workers.

Since its inception in November 2007 the program has been incredibly successful in attracting potential applicants

to union apprenticeship programs.

Other co-sponsors of the media campaign include: Bricklayers #5, the Regional Council of Carpenters, Cement Masons #404, Electricians #38, Floor Covers #509, Iron Workers #17, Laborers Local #310, Laborers #758, Millwrights #1871, Operating Engineers #18 and Pile Drivers #1871.

Local and national organizations also participating include: CEA, CISP, NECA, LECET and IMPACT.

We hope to promote additional messages in 2008 which will benefit our members by attracting quality applicants to apprenticeship programs and showing the added value provided by union contractors and their employees based on educational achievements.



Over 1,400 callers have requested information on apprenticeship programs!

## IZZO NAMED AGC OF OHIO PRESIDENT

Charles Izzo, president of Infinity Construction Co., Inc., ([www.infinityconstruction.com](http://www.infinityconstruction.com)) has been named president of AGC of Ohio. His installation took place on February 23 during a breakfast banquet at the association's annual meeting held in Los Cabos, Mexico. Mr. Izzo also currently serves as second vice president of CEA.

In addition to Mr. Izzo, other newly elected officers include:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Don Dreier of Donley's ([www.donleyinc.com](http://www.donleyinc.com)) (Cleveland);

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Joe Kavalleski of The Lathrop Co. (Toledo); and

Immediate Past President – Tim Galvin of Brexton Construction (Columbus)

Congratulations gentlemen and best wishes for continued success.



AGC of Ohio's new president, Charles Izzo, of Infinity Construction Co., Inc., at his induction in Los Cabos, Mexico

## IN THE NEWS

Robert S. Strickland, of Project and Construction Services, Inc., ([www.pcscmservices.com](http://www.pcscmservices.com)) has been named president of the Construction Management Association of America, Northern Ohio Chapter.

**Precision Environmental Co.** ([www.precisionprocut.com](http://www.precisionprocut.com))

was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in asbestos abatement and Independence Excavating, Inc.

([www.indexc.com](http://www.indexc.com)) was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in excavation in the 2007 ENR Top 600 Specialty Contractors issue.

The Krill Co.'s ([www.krill.com](http://www.krill.com)) named Susan Borst to business development and marketing man-

ager; Douglas Lippus to project manager; Jennifer Hofelich to project coordinator.

### **Regency Construction Services, Inc.**

([www.regencycsi.com](http://www.regencycsi.com)) has named Karl Mews to estimating manager; Scott Wagner and Kevin Wise to project managers; Raymond Szfraniec, Melissa Retort and

Kyle Richardson to assistant project engineers; Bill Hines to estimating department and Crystal Zuby to project administration assistant.

Rob Sommer has been named Estimator/Project Assistant with Lawler Construction, LLC ([www.lawlerconstruction.com](http://www.lawlerconstruction.com)).



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BUILDING NORTHEAST OHIO SINCE  
1916.

CEA is an umbrella association that represents 114 construction companies and 39 affiliate members. We also service over 500 construction related firms through the Construction Industry Service Program (CISP). CEA also represents thirteen local affiliated contractors' associations and is active in three national associations – the Associated General Contractors of America ([www.agc.org](http://www.agc.org)), The Association of Union Constructors ([www.tauc.org](http://www.tauc.org)) and the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association ([www.smacna.org](http://www.smacna.org)).

For further information, including membership information, call John Porada ([jporada@ceacisp.org](mailto:jporada@ceacisp.org)) or Mark Laskey ([mlaskey@ceacisp.org](mailto:mlaskey@ceacisp.org)) at (216) 398-9860.

## FMLA COVERAGE TO INCLUDE MILITARY FAMILIES

On January 28, 2008 President Bush signed legislation expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to cover eligible employees who are family members of reservists called to active duty service and to include qualifying employees who are providing care for family members who are wounded US soldiers.

Highlights of the revised legislation include:

- Employers must provide the standard 12 weeks of FMLA leave to family members (spouses, parents, or children) of

reservists or members of the National Guard who are called to active duty in the U.S. military, termed a "qualifying exigency."

- Allows for an employee's leave to commence as the individual in question receives a call-up notice.
- Requires that when individuals request leave for a qualifying exigency, if the necessity for the leave is foreseeable, an employee must provide the employer with

"reasonable and practicable" notice.

- Employers must also provide up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave in a single 12-month period to employees who are providing care for a recovering service member who was wounded while serving in the U.S. military.

The new legislation applies only to employers who are covered by the FMLA (50 employees within 75 miles) and "eligible employees" (1 year of services and at least

1,250 hours) qualify for this new leave entitlement. As is the case with other types of FMLA leave, there is no requirement that the leave be paid, however, health insurance benefits must be continued during the leave of absence.

Employers who are subject to the provisions of the FMLA are encouraged to review their company's internal policies to insure proper compliance with the new legislation.